

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re application of: David S. Stutz & Christopher A. Art Unit: 2126
Zimmerman

Application No. 09/008,241

Filed: January 16, 1998

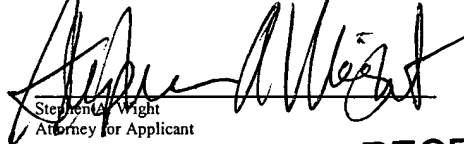
For: OBJECT CONNECTION POINTS

Examiner: Courtenay III, St. John

Date: July 10, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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APPEAL BRIEF

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal dated February 7, 2003, and received February 12, 2003. The fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(c) is enclosed.

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Microsoft Corporation, by an assignment from the inventors recorded at Reel 6842, Frames 0219 *et seq.* Microsoft Corporation is a Washington corporation having a place of business at 1 Microsoft Way, Redmond, Washington, 98052.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

No other appeals or interferences relate to the present application.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-53 are in the application, all of which are currently pending. Claims 1-45 were allowed. Claims 46-53 were rejected.

The claims on appeal are: 46-53.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

The Amendment After Final Rejection filed January 7, 2003 was not entered. This amendment presents replacement paragraphs incorporating the certificate of correction into the specification of the reissue application, in response to the Examiner's request. *See* Paper No. 16, Final Office Action of, October 7, 2002 ("Final Action"), at p. 2. Further, this amendment addresses the Examiner's observation about whether claim 1 was intended to be amended in the Amendment filed December 13, 2001 by incorporating, without underlining or bracketing, the change to claim 1 made in the certificate of correction. Accordingly, the Amendment After Final Rejection merely simplifies issues for appeal, and should have been entered.

Applicants submit herewith an Amendment After Appeal, which again corrects these formalities. Applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment After Appeal.

V. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The claims on appeal include claims directed to computer-readable media and computer systems involving connection points for source objects and sink objects. Claim 46 is supported in the specification, for example, at column 15, line 38 – column 16, line 28; and column 23, lines 1-24 (claim 27). Claim 47 is supported in the specification, for example, at column 9, line 60 – column 10, line 10; and column 24, lines 11-21 (claim 39). Claim 48 is supported in the specification, for example, at column 9, line 60 – column 10, line 10; column 12, line 37 – column 14, line 6; and Figure 3. Claim 49 is supported in the specification, for example, at column 24, lines 31-58 (claim 42). Claim 50 is supported in the specification, for example, at column 9, line 60 – column 10, line 10; and column 25, line 28 – column 26, line 23 (claim 44). Claim 51 is supported in the specification, for example, at column 9, line 60 – column 10, line 10; and column 24, lines 11-21 (claim 39). Claim 52 is supported in the specification, for example, at column 9, line 60 – column 10, line 10; and column 25, line 28 – column 26, line 23 (claim 44). Claim 53 is supported in the specification, for example, at column 9, line 60 – column 10, line 10; and column 24, lines 11-21 (claim 39).

VI. ISSUES

Whether claims 46-53 were timely applied for under 35 U.S.C. § 251, fourth paragraph.

VII. GROUPING OF CLAIMS

Each of the independent claims are independently patentable over the prior art of record. However, because claims 46-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 251, and no prior art rejections have been raised, Applicants group the claims as follows only for the purposes of this appeal.

Because independent claims 46 and 47 were presented together, the patentability of independent claims 46 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 251 stands or falls together.

Because independent claims 48-53 were presented together, the patentability of independent claims 48-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 251 stands or falls together.

VIII. ARGUMENT

A. Brief Summary of Prosecution History

U.S. Patent No. 5,485,617 (“the ‘617 patent”) issued on January 16, 1996. Applicants filed U.S. Patent Application No. 09/008,341 (“the reissue application”) for reissue of the ‘617 patent on January 16, 1998. Included with the reissue application were, *inter alia*, a Preliminary Amendment and a document entitled “Declaration of Inventors” (“the original declaration”). The Preliminary Amendment added new claims 46 and 47. The original declaration included a statement that the inventors believed that they were the original co-inventors of the invention disclosed and claimed in the ‘617 patent. The original declaration also included the following language:

We believe the above-identified patent is partially inoperative by reason of claiming less than we, the inventors, had a right to claim in the patent. Such inoperativeness includes particularly the failure to prosecute and obtain claims commensurate with the scope of new claims 46 and 47 filed in the reissue application.

See Declaration of Inventors at p.1.

Subsequent amendments filed by the Applicants amended original claims 1, 17, 27 and 45,

added new claims 48-53, and amended new claims 46-48 and 50-53. At the request of the Examiner, these subsequent amendments were summarized in an Amendment filed December 13, 2001.

Applicants concurrently filed a document entitled "Reissue Application Declaration by the Inventor" ("the supplemental declaration") on December 13, 2001. The supplemental declaration was signed by the inventors and included the following language:

I verily believe the original patent to be wholly or partly inoperative or invalid . . . by reason of the patentee claiming more or less than he had the right to claim in the patent. . . .

At least one error upon which reissue is based is described below. If the reissue is a broadening reissue, such must be stated with an explanation as to the nature of the broadening:

In the patent, the patentee did not claim the invention in the form of a computer readable medium.

See Reissue Application Declaration by the Inventor at p. 1.

The Examiner issued a Final Action dated October 7, 2002 ("the Final Action") rejecting claims 46-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 251. The examiner stated:

The claims added by amendment do not comply with reissue practice which requires Applicant to satisfy the statutory requirement of broadening within two years of the patent date. All broadening amendments were first presented more than two years after the patent date.

See Final Action at p. 4 (emphasis in original). Applicants respectfully disagree.

B. Claims 46-53 Are Allowable Under 35 U.S.C. § 251, Fourth Paragraph.

Claims 46-53 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 251 because the present reissue application was "applied for" within two years of the date of the original patent.

Section 251, first paragraph requires the Director to reissue a patent for an invention disclosed in an original patent when conditions for granting a reissued patent are met by an applicant for reissue.

Section 251, first paragraph states:

Whenever any patent is, through error without any deceptive intention, deemed wholly or partly inoperative or invalid, by reason of a defective specification or drawing, or by reason of the patentee claiming more or less than he had a right to claim in the patent, the Director shall, on the surrender of such patent and the payment of the fee required by law, reissue the patent for the invention disclosed in the original patent, and in accordance with a new and amended application, for the unexpired part of the term of the original patent. No new matter shall be introduced into the application for reissue.

However, 35 U.S.C. § 251 places a restriction on the timing of a reissue application that seeks to broaden the scope of the claims in the original patent. Section 251, fourth paragraph states:

No reissued patent shall be granted enlarging the scope of the claims of the original patent unless applied for within two years from the grant of the original patent.

Under § 251, fourth paragraph, a reissued patent enlarging the scope of the claims of the original patent will not be granted unless it has been applied for within two years of the grant of the original patent.

For at least the reasons given below, Applicants timely applied for a reissued patent comprising claims 46-53. As a result, claims 46-53 are allowable under § 251.

1. Claims 46-53 were timely applied for because Applicants filed broadened claims within two years of the original patent date.

Claims 46-53 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 251 because Applicants filed broadened claims within two years of the original patent.

The Examiner rejected claims 46-53 because “the broadened claims (or a clear intent to broaden the claims) were not presented within two years of the patent date.” *See* Final Action at p. 4 (emphasis omitted). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The present reissue application was filed on January 16, 1998 – within two years of the original patent. *See* M.P.E.P. § 1412.03. Claims 46 and 47 were presented in a preliminary amendment filed

concurrently with the reissue application. Therefore, claims 46 and 47 were presented within two years of the date of the original patent.

The Examiner alleges the preliminary amendment adding claims 46 and 47 was "received Nov. 6, 1998." See Final Action at p. 2. This allegation contradicts the record of this reissue application. The preliminary amendment is listed on the transmittal sheet of the reissue application and is listed on the return postcard (copy attached as Exhibit A, hereto) stamped by the USPTO as filed on January 16, 1998. The preliminary amendment also bears a certificate of express mailing listing the express mail label number and deposit date of January 16, 1998. Furthermore, the reissue application with which it was filed has been accorded a filing date of January 16, 1998 on the official filing receipt. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that pursuant to the express mail filing procedure per 37 CFR § 1.10, the preliminary amendment presenting broadening claims 46 and 47 must properly be accorded a filing date in the USPTO of January 16, 1998.

Claims 48-53 were also timely "applied for" because broadening claims can be added more than two years after the date of the original patent when a broadening reissue application has been filed within two years of the date of the original patent. See *In re Doll*, 419 F.2d 925 (C.C.P.A. 1970). In *Doll*, the reissue applicants had filed a reissue application presenting some broadened claims within two years of the date of the original patent and then submitted additional broadened claims more than two years after the date of the original patent. *Id.* at 926. The Board had concluded that § 251 prohibited the additional broadened claims because those claims were not presented within two years of the date of the original patent. See *id.* at 927. The court reversed; the broadened claims filed more than two years after the date of the original patent were allowed under § 251 in view of the fact that a broadening reissue application was filed within two years of the date of the original patent. See *id.* at 927-28. See also M.P.E.P. § 1412.03 ("In addition, a broadened claim can be presented *after* two years

from the grant of the original patent in a broadening reissue which was filed *within* two years from the grant.”)

Applicants filed broadened claims within two years of the original patent. Therefore, claims 46-53 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 251.

2. Applicants expressed their intent to broaden the original patent within two years of the original patent date.

Claims 46-53 are also allowable because Applicants’ expressed their intent to broaden the original patent within two years of the original patent date.

As explained above, claims need not be presented within two years of the grant of the original patent to be included in a reissued patent. In fact, M.P.E.P. § 1412.03 explains that if *any intent to broaden* is indicated in the reissue application within two years from the patent grant, broadened claims can be presented after the two-year period. The M.P.E.P. states:

A broadened claim can be presented within two years from the grant of the original patent in a reissue application. In addition, a broadened claim can be presented *after* two years from the grant of the original patent in a broadening reissue which was filed *within* two years from the grant. Where any intent to broaden is indicated in the reissue application within the two years from the patent grant, a broadened claim can subsequently be presented in the reissue after the two year period. . . .

See M.P.E.P. § 1412.03 (emphasis in original).

In the Final Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-45 and rejected claims 46-53, stating:

5. Claims 46-53 are rejected because the broadened claims (or a clear intent to broaden the claims) were not presented within two years of the patent date (Jan. 16, 1996).

6. Applicant’s intent to broaden the claims was presented with the supplemental declaration received April 24, 2002 (paper #14), this being more than two years after the patent date. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 251.

See Final Action at p. 4. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants clearly indicated intent to broaden within two years of the date of the original patent. Applicants' original reissue declaration was filed concurrently with the reissue application. The original reissue declaration states:

We believe the above-identified patent is partially inoperative by reason of claiming less than we, the inventors, had a right to claim in the patent. Such inoperativeness includes particularly the failure to prosecute and obtain claims commensurate with the scope of new claims 46 and 47 filed in the reissue application.

See Declaration of Inventors at p. 1.

The language of Applicants' original declaration shows an intent to claim more broadly the invention disclosed in the original patent by presenting specific claims to correct the stated error of claiming less than the inventors had a right to claim. The M.P.E.P. states that "it is not sufficient to merely reproduce the claims with brackets and underlining and state that such will identify the error." See M.P.E.P. § 1414.II. See also Paper No. 13, Office Action of April 12, 2002, p. 2. However, Applicants did not "merely reproduce the claims." Rather, Applicants *specifically identified the error* by stating that the original patent was "partially inoperative by reason of claiming less than we, the inventors, had a right to claim" and by pointing out the "failure to prosecute and obtain claims commensurate with the scope of" the presented claims. Cf. *In re Clement*, 131 F.3d 1464, 1468 (Fed Cir. 1997) ("An attorney's failure to appreciate the full scope of the invention qualifies as an error under section 251 and is correctable by reissue.")

Applicants indicated intent to broaden within two years of the original patent. Therefore, claims 46-53 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 251.

3. Applicants original reissue declaration fulfilled the requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.175 for filing a reissue declaration.

Claims 46-53 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 251 because they are part of a timely filed

reissue application that includes a reissue declaration in full compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.175.

Applicants' original reissue declaration complies with the statute and with U.S.P.T.O. rules and examination guidelines. 37 C.F.R. § 1.172 requires the inventors to sign or swear to a reissue oath or declaration, and § 1.175 sets forth specific requirements for the content of the reissue oath or declaration. Section 1.175 states in part:

(a) The reissue oath or declaration in addition to complying with the requirements of § 1.63, must also state that:

- (1) The applicant believes the original patent to be wholly or partly inoperative or invalid by reason of a defective specification or drawing, or by reason of the patentee claiming more or less than the patentee had the right to claim in the patent, stating at least one error being relied upon as the basis for reissue; and
- (2) All errors being corrected in the reissue application up to the time of filing of the oath or declaration under this paragraph arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicant.

Section 1.175(a) requires the inventors to state at least one error that is relied upon as the basis for reissue of the original patent and to declare that all errors being corrected arose without deceptive intent.

The original declaration filed concurrently with the reissue application states in part:

6. We believe the above-identified patent is partially inoperative by reason of claiming less than we, the inventors, had a right to claim in the patent. Such inoperativeness includes particularly the failure to prosecute and obtain claims commensurate with the scope of new claims 46 and 47 filed in the reissue application.
7. On information and belief, we further declare that the reasons which render U.S. Patent No. 5,485,617 partially inoperative arose without any fraudulent or deceptive intention on our part

In this passage, the reissue declaration recites an error relied upon as the basis for the reissue, by stating that the "patent is partially inoperative by reason of claiming less than we, the inventors, had a right to claim." The reissue declaration particularly describes the error by describing "the failure to

prosecute and obtain claims commensurate with the scope of new claims 46 and 47.” The reissue declaration also fulfills the requirement that errors arose without any deceptive intent.

The M.P.E.P. states, “Any error in the claims must be identified by reference to the specific claim(s) and the specific claim language wherein lies the error.” M.P.E.P. § 1414.II. However, for claims 46-53, there was no specific erroneous claim language to point to in the original claims. Rather, the reissue application presents claims 46-53 in a new form containing language (e.g., “computer-readable medium”) not present in the original claims. The error, as explained in the original reissue declaration, was in what was not claimed, rather than what was claimed, in the original patent.

Furthermore, a reference to specific claim language is not required under 35 U.S.C. § 251 or 37 C.F.R. § 1.175. Section 1.175 requires only that the applicant state at least one error being relied upon as the basis for reissue. Section 1.175 does not require reference to specific claim language.

The M.P.E.P. cites *In re Constant*, 827 F.2d 728 (Fed Cir. 1987) for its assertions about the specificity of error identification. However, the version of § 1.175 at issue in *Constant* was more strict in its requirements for the content of the reissue declaration than the current version of the rule, which applies to the present reissue application. Since the decision in *Constant*, the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.175 have been relaxed, allowing even greater flexibility in the content of the reissue oath or declaration. See *Dethmers Mfg. Co. v. Automatic Equip. Mfg. Co.*, 272 F.3d 1365, 1369-70 n.1 (Fed. Cir. 2001) (“The current version of the rule, which took effect on December 1, 1997, after the reissue patent issued, is more liberal. . . .”). The earlier version of § 1.175 required the applicant to, among other things, distinctly specify the “excess or insufficiency in the claims” when it was claimed that the patent was “inoperative or invalid by reason of the patentee claiming more or less than he had the right to claim in the patent.” See *id.* at 1369 (quoting 37 C.F.R. § 1.175(a)(3) (1996)) (internal

quotation omitted). This is no longer the case. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 1.175(a) (2003). *See also Dethmers*, 272 F.3d at 1369 n.1. In view of these relaxed requirements, Applicants' original declaration falls even more squarely within the rules governing reissue declarations.

However, even under the old version of the rule, Applicants' original reissue declaration would have been sufficient. As in *Constant*, the version of § 1.175 before the court in *Doll* required "that the applicant make a statement distinctly specifying the excess or insufficiency in the claims." *See Doll*, 419 F.2d at 928 (internal quotation omitted). In *Doll*, the court reversed the Board's rejection based on lack of an adequate reissue oath, stating:

While Patent Office Rule 175 sets out requirements for reissue oaths, including that the applicant make a statement "distinctly specifying the excess or insufficiency of the claims," we do not see where there has been a lack of compliance therewith in this case. The original reissue application oath specifies:

None of the patent claims affords for the embodiment of Fig. 4 patent coverage of the scope possessed by claims 20-31, inclusive, which form part of the foregoing specification, nor were claims of comparable scope ever presented during the pendency of the original application on which said Letters Patent were granted.

See id. at 928. The language from the oath cited by the court simply stated that no claims of the scope possessed by the claims presented at the time of filing the oath were of comparable scope to certain claims presented during the pendency of the original application. The language did not identify any specific feature of the original claims or the new claims. The court found the oath to be compliant with §1.175. *See id.* ("On this record, we agree with appellant that the oath is adequate.")

Applicants filed a reissue declaration in full compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.175 within two years of the original patent. Therefore, claims 46-53 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 251.

4. Applicants supplemental reissue declaration fulfilled the requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.175 for filing a reissue declaration.

Applicants' original reissue declaration fulfilled the requirements of § 1.175(a) at the time of filing the reissue application. But even if the reissue declaration had not fulfilled the requirements at that time, the reissue application was still timely "applied for" under 35 U.S.C. § 251 based on Applicants' supplemental reissue declaration.

Despite the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.175(a), the reissue declaration need not be complete at the time of filing the reissue application. Section 1.175(b) allows a supplemental oath or declaration to be filed if any error to be corrected is not covered by the original oath or declaration submitted under § 1.175(a). Furthermore, shortcomings of an original reissue declaration are correctable in supplemental reissue declarations without affecting the timeliness of a broadening reissue application. *See In re Bennett*, 766 F.2d 524, 528 (Fed. Cir. 1985) (Board erred in refusing to allow appellant to correct defective execution of a broadening reissue application filed within the two year period of 35 U.S.C. § 251).

In particular, where an original declaration does not describe an error being corrected in a reissue application in sufficient detail, the substitute declaration can be used to satisfy § 1.175, even if the substitute declaration was filed more than two years after the date of the original patent. *See Dethmers*, 272 F.3d 1365. In *Dethmers*, the district court had found that both an original reissue declaration (filed within two years of the original patent date) and a supplemental reissue declaration (filed more than two years after the original patent date) insufficiently explained the errors sought to be corrected in the reissue application under the old version of § 1.175. *See Dethmers Mfg. Co. v. Automatic Equip. Mfg. Co.*, 23 F. Supp.2d 974, 1023-25 (W.D. Iowa 1998). The Federal Circuit reversed in part, finding that the differences in some of the broadened reissue claims were sufficiently

described in the supplemental reissue declaration. *See Dethmers*, 272 F.3d at 1374. The filing of the reissue application was not found to be untimely. *See generally id.*

Applicants filed a supplemental reissue declaration on December 13, 2001. The supplemental declaration was signed by the inventors and included the following language:

I verily believe the original patent to be wholly or partly inoperative or invalid . . . by reason of the patentee claiming more or less than he had the right to claim in the patent. . . .

At least one error upon which reissue is based is described below. If the reissue is a broadening reissue, such must be stated with an explanation as to the nature of the broadening:

In the patent, the patentee did not claim the invention in the form of a computer readable medium.

See Reissue Application Declaration by the Inventor, filed December 13, 2001, at p. 1.

Although not required under § 1.175, applicants refer specifically to “a computer readable medium” in the supplemental declaration. The Examiner found that this language stated “Applicant’s intention to broaden the claimed subject matter to encompass a ‘computer readable medium.’” *See* Final Action at p. 4. Therefore, even if the original declaration were found to be insufficient under the current version of § 1.175, the supplemental declaration even more clearly shows “the error being relied upon as the basis for reissue.”

Applicants filed an original reissue declaration in full compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.175 within two years of the original patent. However, even if the original reissue declaration had not fulfilled the requirements of § 1.175, the reissue application was still timely “applied for” based on Applicants’ supplemental reissue declaration. Therefore, claims 46-53 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 251.

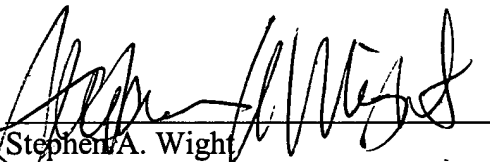
IX. CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons given above, claims 46-53 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 251.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 46-53 should be reversed and all claims passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

CLAIMS ON APPEAL

46. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps to generate an object connection between a source object and a sink object, the sink object implementing a plurality of notification interfaces for communicating with the source object, each notification interface having an associated interface identifier, and the source object having instances of a connection point interface identifier, each instance of the connection point interface having an associated interface identifier, the steps comprising:

selecting a notification interface from among the plurality of notification interfaces of the sink object;

selecting an instance of the connection point interface of the source object, the selected instance having an associated interface identifier that corresponds to the interface identifier associated with the selected notification interface of the sink object;

using the selected connection point interface instance to request that the source object and the sink object be connected, wherein the request has a reference to an instance of the selected notification interface of the sink object; and

storing the reference to the instance of the selected notification interface, so that the sink object can be notified by the source object.

47. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon an object connection architecture comprising:

a plurality of sink objects, each sink object having a notification function member for

communicating with the sink object from a source object; and

a plurality of source objects, each source object having a connection point object, each connection point object storing a notification function member and returning an identification of the notification function member upon request.

48. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for causing a computer system to dynamically connect source and sink objects by:

communicating with a sink object from the source object via a notification interface;

storing a plurality of notification interfaces referenced by a plurality of connection point objects wherein each source object is coupled to a connection point object; and

returning an identification of one of the notification interfaces from the stored plurality of notification interfaces upon request.

49. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for causing a computer system to connect a source object and a sink object, the sink object having an instance of a notification interface for receiving communications from the source object, the notification interface having an associated interface identifier, the source object having instances of a connection point interface, each instance of the connection point interface having an associated interface identifier, the computer system directed by said instructions to perform the steps comprising:

receiving a request to identify instances of the connection point interface;

sending a reference to each instance of the connection point interface, wherein from each reference the sink object obtains an indication of the interface identifier associated with the instance;

receiving, through one of the instances of the connection point interface, a request to connect the source object and the sink object, the request having a reference to the notification interface instance of the sink object, wherein the interface identifier associated with the receiving connection point interface corresponds to the interface identifier associated with the notification interface of the sink object; and

storing the reference to the notification interface instance, wherein the source object communicates with the sink object using the stored reference to the notification interface instance.

50. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for causing a computer system to dynamically notify a sink object from a source object, each sink object having a notification interface, each source object having a connection point for referencing one or more notification interfaces, the computer system performing a method comprising:

selecting a notification interface of the sink object;

selecting a corresponding connection point of the source object, the selection based upon the notification interface that is selected;

connecting the connection point selected and the notification interface selected, wherein a reference to the selected notification interface is stored by the selected connection point; and

invoking the selected notification interface referred to by the stored reference to effect notification of the sink object.

51. A computer system for dynamically connecting objects, the system comprising:

a plurality of sink objects, each sink object having a notification interface for communicating

with the sink object from the source object; and

a plurality of source objects, each source object having a connection point object, each connection point object storing a notification interface and returning an identification of the notification interface upon request.

52. A computer system for notifying a sink object from a source object, the computer system having a plurality of sink objects and source objects, each sink object having a notification interface, each source object having a connection point for storing one or more notification interfaces, the system comprising:

means for selecting a notification interface;

means for selecting a corresponding connection point, the selection based upon the notification interface that is selected by the notification interface selection means;

means for connecting the connection point selected by the connection point selection means and the notification interface selected by the notification interface selection means, wherein a reference to the selected notification interface is stored within the selected connection point; and

means for invoking the selected notification interface referred to by the stored reference to effect notification of the sink object.

53. A computer readable medium having objects stored thereon for causing a computer system to dynamically connect objects, the objects stored on the medium comprising:

a plurality of sink objects, each sink object having a notification interface for communicating with the sink object from the source object; and

a plurality of source objects, each source object having a connection point object, each connection point object storing a notification interface and returning an identification of the notification interface upon request.

In re Patent Application of: David S. Stutz et al.

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DYNAMICALLY GENERATING OBJECT CONNECTIONS

Docket No.: 777.115USR

Receipt is hereby acknowledged for the following in the United States Patent and Trademark Office:

CONTENTS: A Communication Re: Transmittal of Reissue Application (2 pgs); A Reissue Application including Specification, Claims, Abstract and Drawings (38 pgs); A Declaration of Inventors (Unsigned) (3 pgs); Offer to Surrender Original Patent (1 pg); Assent by Assignee Under 37 C.F.R. 1.172 and Power of Attorney (2 pgs); Request to Transfer Drawings (1 pg); Preliminary Amendment (3 pgs) a check in the amount of \$790.00 to cover the Reissue Filing Fee; and TRANSMITTAL SHEET.

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EM153178762US

Mailed: January 16, 1998

SSH/gh

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